

April 5, 2013

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing Testimony

HB 6690 AN ACT CONCERNING COURT PROCEEDINGS AND THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS.

Testimony from Lana Burchman
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Volunteer, Our Companions Animal Rescue
Member, CT Votes for Animals

Dear members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify IN SUPPORT of H.B. 6690.

Animals, need an advocate to speak out in their behalf, especially in cases of any kind of abuse. It is a responsibility each person has to do whatever possible and necessary for their protection and humane treatment. This bill, would allow for a court-appointed advocate concerned for that animals protection and wellbeing. A very important responsibility.

Along with domestic violence often goes animal abuse. Animals inhumane neglect and abuse need to be clearly documented along with appropriate charges filed in these cases. One can only hope that the result of the investigations and charges results in the appropriate penalties for such criminal acts.

This bill provides an advocate to be in the court presenting any and all information pertaining to the abuse, level of suffering and appropriate decision making in the best interest of the animal.

All too often we are witnesses to and seeing pictures of abuse of animals that we cannot help, please give them a voice now, here in this STATE, to be heard on this very important and powerful issue. Animal cruelty needs to be acknowledged and recognized and animals need a loving and caring voice to speak on their behalf.

This type of protection is so desperately needed in our escalating violent society. As a volunteer dealing with animals and animal rescue, the stories of some of these poor defenseless animals is really incredible. Just as children have advocates so too do animals need care and concern; it is our responsibility to do our very best in providing and filling that need.

I thank you for considering my testimony on this very important piece of legislation.